**GT Family E-News**

**September 27, 2011**

You are receiving this email as part of the Thompson School District's Gifted and Talented Community Email List. If you have been entered onto this list in error or no longer wish to receive e-news and other notifications as part of this list, please email [jennifer.solt@thompsonschools.org](mailto:jennifer.solt@thompsonschools.org) and request Mailing List Removal.

**IN THIS EDITION:**

* **CONNECTIONS WITH THE GIFTED & TALENTED COMMUNITY**
* **UPCOMING AREA & DISTRICT EVENTS**
* **RESOURCES FOR YOUR FAMILY**

**JOIN US FOR LUNCHTIME CONVERSATION**

Join other parents and staff members at our **GT Brown Bag Lunches.** These lunches are held about once per month at different host schools in the district. You are welcome to attend any or all of these casual get-togethers to network with other GT families, share ideas, and ask questions regarding gifted education in the school district.

* Reminder: **Our next BBL is TOMORROW, September 28, from 12-12:45,** at Ivy Stockwell Elementary (175 South 5th Street, Berthoud).
  + Bring a lunch,
  + bring a friend,
  + and bring your questions and ideas!
* October BBL: **Thursday, September 20, 11:30-12:15**, Turner Middle School (950 Massachusetts Avenue, Berthoud)
* Save the dates! Did you miss the attachment of the 2011-2012 BBL Schedule in a former e-News? Just send a request to have this emailed to you: [jennifer.solt@thompsonschools.org](mailto:jennifer.solt@thompsonschools.org) or go to our wikispace at <http://northerncoloradogtparents.wikispaces.com/>.

**JOIN US FOR AN EVENING CONVERSATION**

How is technology used in the schools? How can you help safeguard your child from cyber-dangers? Come to our first quarterly hands-on program of the school year in our **GT Parent Night Series** to learn more about technology use and safety for GT students.

* **Thursday, October 20, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**
* Guest Presenter: Diane McInturff, a TSD GT Teacher.
* Location: Classroom 8 of the TSD Administration Building (800 South Taft). Enter through the Front Range Community College Learning Center Entrance and follow the signs to the classroom.
* Questions? Contact Jennifer Solt, Parent Liaison, at 970-613-5057, or at [jennifer.solt@thompsonschools.org](mailto:jennifer.solt@thompsonschools.org).

**EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK**

Come to **Thompson 101** for an informative and interactive night. Information tables and handouts, breakout sessions, and a Board of Education Candidate Forum are planned.

* **Monday, October 3, 6:30 p.m.**
* Location: Bill Reed Middle School (370 W. 4th Street, Loveland)
* Stop by the Gifted and Talented table and introduce yourself. We look forward to meeting you!
* Open the attachment to this GT Family e-News for more information.

**ENROLL YOUR CHILD IN CREATIVE & CRITICAL THINKING WORKSHOPS AT UNC**

“Creative and critical thinking skills are vital for personal and academic growth. The Creativity Express program (offered through the University of Northern Colorado’s Center for the Education and Study of Gifted, Talented, Creative Learners) addresses these skills through intriguing activities from the sciences, history, visual & performing arts and literature.

The program is designed for students in **grades 2 through 5** who exhibit high ability, potential, creativity and/or curiosity. Prepare your child to be an active life-long learner!”

* McKee Hall on the UNC Campus
* **Saturdays, October 8, 15, 22, & 29**
* 1:30-4:00 P.M.
* Cost: $80
* Free parent seminars on giftedness, talent development, and creativity offered on October 8 and October 15.
* To apply, open the attachment to this GT Family e-News.
* For more information: (970) 351-2683 or [www.unco.edu/gtcenter](http://www.unco.edu/gtcenter) (click the link on the left that says “Creativity Express”).

**CHECK OUT OUR RESOURCES**

**Online:** <http://sketchup.google.com/>

Do you know a kid (or adult) who thinks in multiple dimensions? Do you have a budding architect or engineer at home? Google’s free SketchUp 8 download will keep them busy designing buildings, rooms, furniture, cities, objects or anything their imaginations can dream up in 3D. Models can be built from scratch or borrowed in parts. The video tutorials make it easy to get started and to keep them inventing like pros in no time. The best part: the software is free!

**Enrichment Resource Center (at the District GT Office in the Administration Building):** *Raising Your Spirited Child: A Guide for Parents Whose Child is More Intense, Sensitive, Perceptive, Persistent, Energetic*, by Mary Sheedy Kurcinka

This book helped me change my perspective and the language I inadvertently used to label and describe my own children. The author’s descriptions, examples, and narratives struck home for me and encouraged me to understand my kids in a new way, to work with them and find appropriate outlets for them in a new way, and to enjoy and appreciate them more fully in a new way. This is a how-to book, of sorts. It is not a description of how to change your child, but how to interact more positively with them.

*We have wonderful resources available to each of you. Our resource library is full of great titles for you to check out.*

* *Stop by and check out a book,*
* *or email me with a title or an area of interest and I can have the book(s) delivered to your child’s school for pick-up:* [*jennifer.solt@thompsonschools.org*](mailto:jennifer.solt@thompsonschools.org)*.*

**Wikispace for Northern Colorado GT Parents:**

Do you need information sent in previous e-News editions? Do you want to view an updated calendar or post your comments and ideas? Check out our wikispace at <http://northerncoloradogtparents.wikispaces.com/>.

**SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE WITH US**

What resources have you found helpful? If you have favorite websites, games, reading materials, organizations, etc. related to gifted education, send your suggestions for future highlights my way: [jennifer.solt@thompsonschools.org](mailto:jennifer.solt@thompsonschools.org).